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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5252
INFO RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1569
RUEHTN/AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN 5865
RUEHDU/AMCONSUL DURBAN 0038
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
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SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/S

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [ZI](#) [SF](#)

SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE DEMARCHE: AMBASSADOR UNDERSCORES NEED TO
RESPECT WILL OF PEOPLE

REF: STATE 79617

Classified By: Ambassador Eric M. Bost. Reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

[¶1.](#) (C) Ambassador delivered reftel demarche on the ongoing Zimbabwe political talks to DepForMin Sue van der Merwe on July 28. He underscored that the outcome of any negotiation must respect the will of the Zimbabwean people, which we believe does not include President Mugabe retaining a position in government. If the South African-facilitated agreement includes a role for Mugabe, the Ambassador noted that the USG would have serious reservations about providing reconstruction support to Zimbabwe.

[¶2.](#) (C) Van der Merwe took the Ambassador's points on board. She stated that South Africa does not/not find the recent EU/U.S. imposition of sanctions helpful in promoting a political resolution in Zimbabwe. Van der Merwe added that the U.S. position on Zimbabwe is well-known, and she does not understand the need to repeat demarches on the same subject.
BOST